

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION



# INFOCUS

FEBRUARY 2012

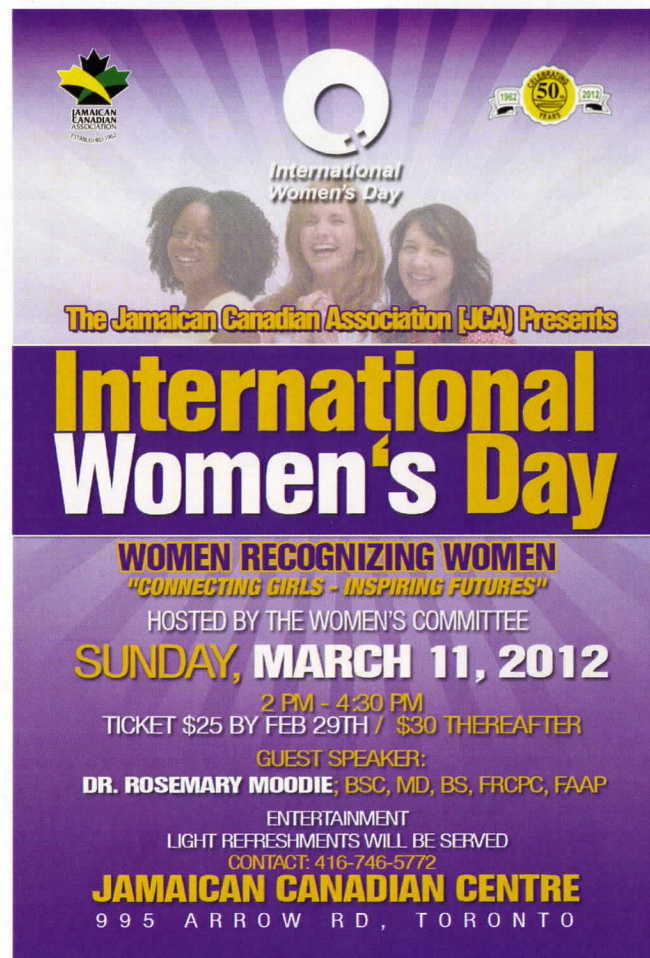
50

*years*

1962-2012



## UPCOMING EVENTS



May 6th Walk-a-Thon – Walk Good Event

July 21st – JCA 50th Anniversary Celebration

August 5th – Flag Raising Ceremony & Church Service

August 11th – JCA 50th Independence Celebration

AWE (AFTER WORK EDUTAINMENT)  
THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

March 15, 2012 - Women Night

April 19, 2012 - Heroes Night

May 17, 2012 - Youth Night

June 21, 2012 - Focus on Food

July 19, 2012 - Future of JCA

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY! BRING A FRIEND!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This year, 2012, marks the 50th (Golden) Anniversary of Jamaica and the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA). In honour of this half century milestone the JCA has will be celebrating throughout the year. All the JCA's annual events will carry the 50th Anniversary logo which was specifically designed to commemorate the 50th theme. It can be found on all printed materials and our website. This promises to be an exciting year and the following will serve to highlight just some of the plans for the year ahead.

We launched the year with a Thanksgiving Church Service on Sunday, January 15th. It seemed appropriate given the tremendous amount of blessings that we have experienced throughout these 50 years. The day was, as they say, bitter sweet. On the same evening, with just a week's notice to plan, we held a community fundraiser in aid of the Dixon Family who lost four family members in a horrific car accident in Jamaica. In conjunction with our community partners the Alliance of Jamaica Alumni Association and the Jamaica Ex Soldiers we were able to raise \$6000 to assist with the funeral expenses in Jamaica. This was all made possible as a result of the JCA's ability to provide the facility where such an event could be held. This is but one the countless humanitarian acts of which the JCA is renowned for.

Our year-long celebration includes the following events. The Public Relations Committee will host 'After Work Edutainment' (AWE). It is a series of networking sessions, the third Thursday of each month, designed to educate and entertain while engaging JCA members and the wider community. This month's theme, 'In the Beginning' gave the attendees the opportunity to learn about what inspired the creation of the JCA as well as interact with members that were there in the beginning. This was especially poignant given the contribution that the JCA and its members have made to Canadian history in Toronto.

We have launched our Direct Mail 50th Anniversary campaign. The letters were sent out early January encouraging members to donate \$1 for each year of JCA's existence. My sincere thanks to those of you who have contributed to date, and for those who haven't yet, we look forward to your support.

As you are aware, for this year only, the JCA will not be celebrating our anniversary in conjunction with the annual Jamaica Independence Celebration traditionally held in August. Our Anniversary Gala will be a separate event which will take place on Saturday, July 21st. We are asking our members to 'save the date'. It promises to be a wonderful event! The JCA is co-chairing the Independence Gala with the JA 50th Committee. The Gala will be held Saturday, August 11th at the Metro Convention Centre.

The journey of 50 years has been significant and has realized many accomplishments. Throughout the year we look forward to acknowledging and celebrating those that have contributed to the legacy of our beloved Association.

Warmest regards,

Audrey Campbell



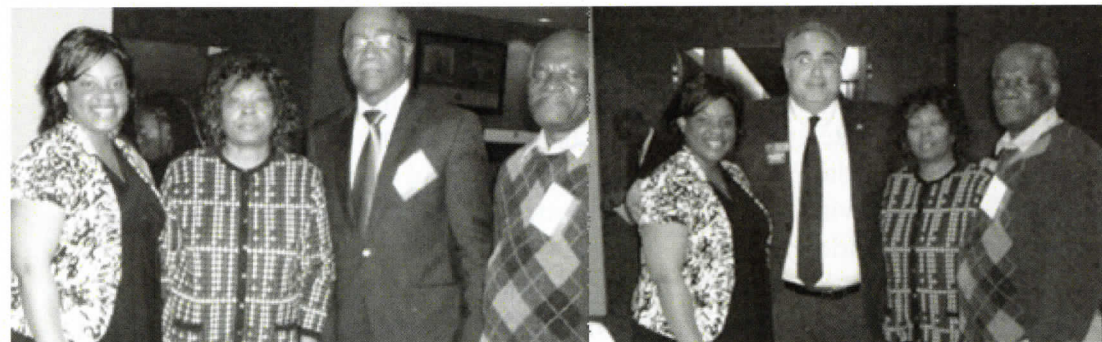


## PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

In this the 50th year of the JCA, we are honoured to be involved and experiencing this golden milestone. It is with that in mind that we have been hosting our monthly series of networking sessions geared towards building awareness of JCA as well as enhancing and expanding the membership database. It is for this reason that we are recruiting and seeking to appease the younger generation. We believe that by targeting the young people and appealing to their interest, we will increase their involvement in JCA and contribute to keeping the legacy of JCA alive for another 50+ years.

Our recent edition of AWE, "Where it all began.....a trip down memory lane" was quite successful. The wealth of information provided was in depth and very educational. We would like to thank all our panel members but especially the 1st president Roy Williams for the display he provided. His display consisted of the first JCA building, the first event put on by JCA with an admission cost of \$1.75 and founding members just to name a few. It was indeed a trip down memory lane.

Yolan Williams-Henry  
Public Relations Chair



L-R  
Yolan Williams (PR), Pam Reynolds (Membership Chair), Ken Jeffers (Retired) Manager, Access and Diversity Parks, Forestry and Recreation City of Toronto and Herbert Green.

In addition to our monthly networking series, AWE. We have also been connecting with the wider community. We were recently invited to the CIBC Black Employee Network (CBEN) Black History Month Kick-Off at the CIBC Head Offices at King & Bay. Among the speakers were Larry Tomei, Senior Vice-President, CIBC Retail Markets for Central Canada and Ken Jeffers who recently retired from the position of City of Toronto Manager, Access and Diversity Parks, Forestry and Recreation. Mr. Tomei commended CBEN for their efforts in the community and Mr. Jeffers made reference in his speech to JCA as one of the organization's that has contributed to the community from the 1960s to present. We thank CBEN for the opportunity to be exposed to the CIBC network and look forward to building stronger relations.

JCA has been and continues to be a staple to the African/Caribbean community and we each need to play our part in ensuring that this legacy lives on.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### *The Story of Ellen "William Johnson" Craft*

In 1848, husband and wife slaves, William and Ellen Craft made a remarkable escape from the wretched life of slavery to freedom and dignity, through a cleverly orchestrated plan that would generate the respect of thousands of slaves, ex-slaves and abolitionists.

Ellen was born in 1826 in Clinton, Georgia, the daughter of a slave woman and her 'owner'. Due to her fair complexion, Ellen was often mistaken for a white member of her 'father's' family. At age 11, she was given as a 'wedding gift' to one of her 'half-sisters', who lived in Macon, Georgia. In Macon, Ellen met William, a skilled cabinet maker, who was allowed to earn a small income from his skill. This income made it possible for them to realize their escape. They wanted to get married before they left Georgia, but both had to get their owners' permission - which they did.

Their daring plan was devised and every detail carefully mapped out and rehearsed, as both knew the consequences of being captured and returned to their 'owners'. They had each secured a 'Christmas Pass' which enabled them to begin their journey without arousing suspicion.

The uneducated, Ellen would act the part of a young educated invalid, 'white' gentleman, "William Johnson", travelling with 'his' faithful black slave. Given the great distance they had to travel to freedom, from Georgia to Boston, it would be impossible for them to complete the journey via land, only. Therefore, they had to devise a plan that would eliminate suspicion and avoid being captured when they travelled by train or boat. To aid their disguise, William cut Ellen's hair, she wore a sling over her right arm to prevent her from having to write

and to be engaged in unnecessary conversation she tied a poultice around her face.

In Baltimore, the last leg of their journey, they narrowly escaped capture, when the ticket agent demanded that 'William' provide proof of ownership for 'his' slave. Invalid, 'William' firmly protested the inconvenience of such a request. This aroused sympathy from fellow passengers. Seeing the reaction of the other passengers, the ticket agent allowed them to pass without proof of ownership. From Baltimore, they travelled to the 'free' state of Philadelphia.

In Philadelphia, they became famous in the North, for their bold escape. They continued their journey on to Boston, where they live peacefully for 2 happy years. However, in 1950, they were again in danger of being captured when they were tracked there by slave hunters. The couple then fled to Nova Scotia and booked a passage on a steamer going to Liverpool, England, where they immediately received the support of English abolitionists.

In England William and Ellen Craft's story was published and they enjoyed celebrity status. They learned to read and write, and through hard work and economic acumen, they realized substantial prominence and financial success. There they started their family and had five children.

In 1868, the Crafts returned to the USA with their children and purchased a plantation in William's old homeland. In Georgia they conducted an industrial school for Blacks.

Ellen died in 1897 and William in 1900. Their remarkable story is one of determination, cunning and resourcefulness.







## ANNUAL BOONOOONOONUS BRUNCH



The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) kicked off the celebration of the organization's 50th anniversary year with a triple celebration at their annual Boonoonoonos Brunch.

The spectacular Golden anniversary event - held Sunday, February 12, 2012 - not only launched the celebration of the JCA's 50th Anniversary, but also Jamaica's 50th year of Independence from Britain and Black History Month celebrations.

The JCA is one of the largest and best organized community groups in Canada serving the African Canadian and Caribbean communities for half century and counting.

According to the more than 200 guests who attended, the event was spectacular and left them wanting more. The keynote speaker at the brunch was the Honourable Arnaldo Brown, Jamaica's Minister of State with responsibility for the Diaspora and Trade in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

The Minister is one of the young vibrant and dynamic politicians who were elected to Parliament in Jamaica's December 29 (2011) General Election.

In his address, the Minister spoke of the incredible impact Jamaican migrants have made on Canada and the rest of the World. "We are leaders of the world, an island that delivers in excellence things that are positive." He encouraged those present to become investors in Jamaica and to reap the rewards of those investments in a progressive, dynamic country. "Jamaica is open to business," he said.

Jamaica's High Commissioner in Canada, Her Excellency Sheila Sealy Monteith spoke of the planned celebrations in Canada for Jamaica's 50th anniversary of Independence and the 50th anniversary of Canada's Bi-lateral Relations with an independent Jamaica.

Canada was one of the first nations with whom such diplomatic ties were made following Independence on August 6, 1962.

The High Commissioner also spoke of the significant contributions made by Jamaican's living in Canada to their native country. She specifically mentioned education and the Jamaican-Canadian community's response to relief efforts during natural disasters.

Former president of the JCA Valarie Steele highlighted three 50th Golden Celebrations which are: Diplomatic relations between Canada and Jamaica on August 2, 1962, Jamaica's Independence August 6, 1962 and the JCA establishment since September 1962.

The event also celebrated the appointment of Jamaican Canadian Justice Aston Hall to the bench in Ontario. He will sit in the Scarborough Provincial Court.

JCA President Audrey Campbell later said "the event was an absolute success and a grand kick-off for our Golden Anniversary year. "The Minister impressed us with his forthrightness and made no bones about the fact that the Jamaican Diaspora is absolutely part of the nation, regardless of the miles that separate Canada and Jamaica." She also stated that "Aston Hall's appointment to the Ontario Court of Justice is a sense of pride for all Jamaicans" Given his humble beginnings his achievements are a shining example of overcoming obstacles with excellence."

The audience was entertained by Arsenal's Ska Band with Dizzy and Comfort, Elite Dancers, Nadine Williams, Miss Jambana 2011, Miss Yorkgate Idol 2011, and Ti-Shauna. MCs Marcia Brown of Marcia Brown Productions and Danae Peart of CHRY were a crowd favourite.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, special thanks to the membership team for their outstanding commitment throughout the year. They have shown a strong commitment to the mission and vision of the JCA and the Membership Committee in particular; and on many occasions have gone over and beyond which has greatly enhanced the recruitment process and adding to the visibility of the JCA within the community.

Throughout the year committee has been working diligently to recruit new members and launch initiatives geared to the retention of current and long-standing members. Current outreach activities have been successful in reaching individuals and families throughout the GTA and other surrounding areas from which we anticipate the membership to grow steadily in 2012. In the immediate future we anticipate an increase in diversity among the membership as well as an increase in business members.

We welcome new members who may have some time to volunteer and help out at events and on special projects. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact us at 416 746 5772 ext 249.

JCA's 50th ANNIVERSARY - As you know 2012 is an important year for our organization. Upon our 50th An-

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

niversary, we hope to see new faces in the crowd of our celebration on Saturday July 21st, and hope that they continue to celebrate milestones with us over the years to come.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUES REMINDER-**  
Thank you for being a valued member.

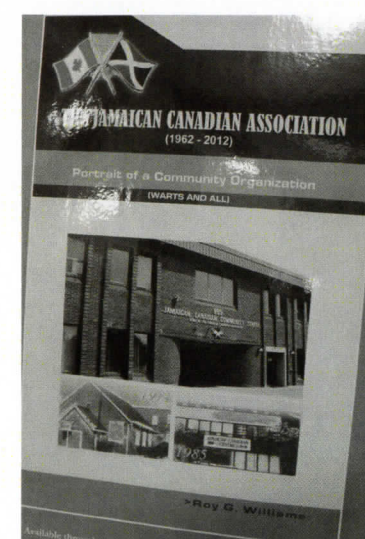
The Membership office would like to remind you that JCA membership expires on March 31st.

"Get connected" keep your eyes open for e-renewal notice awareness to be rolled out shortly. It's time to renew your membership for 2012 - 2013 and beyond. If you have not done so already, now is the time to do so. If you are a paid up member please accept our thanks.

**THE WISHING WELL GROUP** - Our sincere sympathies to bereaved families of our members and our heartfelt good wishes for a speedy recovery to those members who are ill or on the road to recovery,

Pam Reynolds  
Chair, Membership Services Committee  
Email: [membership@jcaontario.org](mailto:membership@jcaontario.org)  
[www.jcaontario.org](http://www.jcaontario.org)

## AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE SOON



Jamaican Canadian Association  
1962-2012

"A portrait of a Community Organization-warts and all"  
by Roy Williams



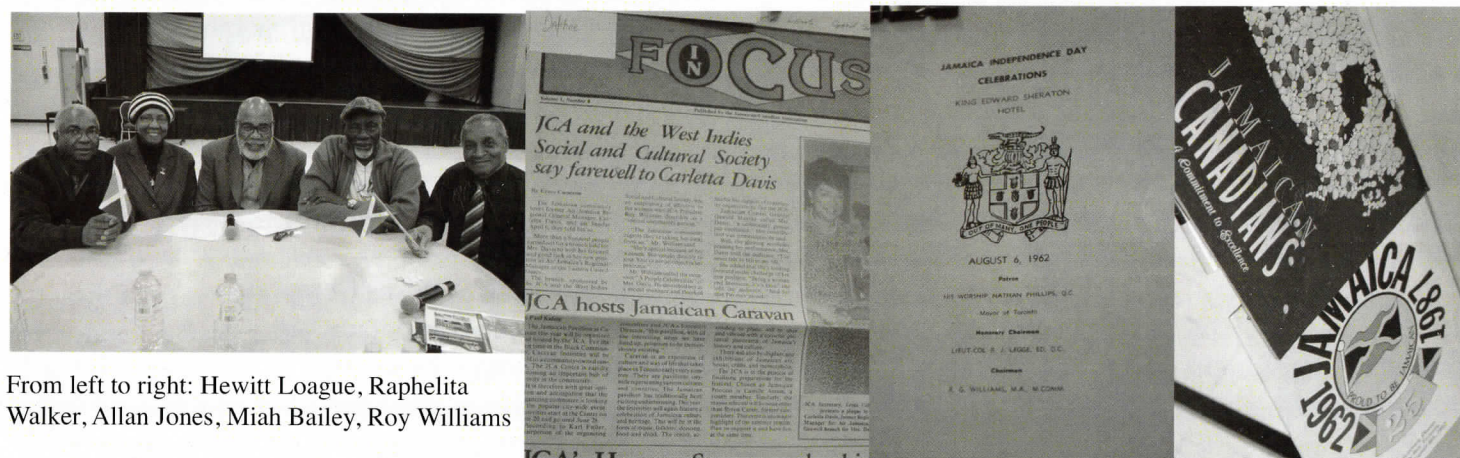


## AFTER WORK EDUTAINMENT: THEN & NOW

A trip down memory lane took us back to the beginnings of the JCA in 1962. The creation of the JCA runs parallel to the creation of Jamaica as an independent nation. On Thursday February 16, 2012, as part of the year long After-Work Edutainment series, some of the founding members of the JCA came to share their stories and experiences with the formation of the association.

We were graced with the presence of one of the founding members and the first President of the JCA, Roy Williams. Past President Nehemiah Bailey, another foundation member Raphaelita Walker and President of the Black Action Defence Committee, Hewitt Loague. Hosted by Allan Jones of G 98.7, we were treated to stories of the parties, the struggles and the triumphs of

the Jamaican Canadian Association. The audience connected with the feelings of jubilation that surrounded the pride felt when the first Jamaican flag was raised at City Hall. Our panelists mentioned their greatest accomplishments with the JCA which include the purchase of the building, the mentorship programme and the various social services that are offered by the JCA. That session made the audience truly understand the importance the JCA has in Canadian History and Jamaican History. Sentiments of hope and dreams for the JCA were also shared which included the paying off of the mortgage, the development of a tradesman programme and trade school for the JCA and the involvement of more youth in the organizational aspects of the JCA.



From left to right: Hewitt Loague, Raphaelita Walker, Allan Jones, Miah Bailey, Roy Williams



## THANKSGIVING SERVICE & FUNDRAISING CONCERT

The JCA hosted a Service of Thanksgiving under the patronage of the Consul General of Jamaica, Mr. Seth George Ramocan from 2pm-4pm at the Jamaican Canadian Centre, 995 Arrow Road.

The afternoon was filled with Praise & Worship and performances by Toronto's anointed Minister Kay Morris, Patrick Blair, JCA Senior's Choir and the Afrocentric School

Choir. Pastor Omar Palmer from the Meadowvale Seventh Day Adventist Church was the honorary guest speaker.

Immediately following the Thanksgiving Service, the Jamaican Canadian Association along with other community partners (CHRY Radio, Total Prayz Production, The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations & Jamaica Ex-Soldiers) hosted a fundraising concert in support of the Dixon family who lost 4 family members under very tragic circumstances in Jamaica on the 7th of January.

The collective love and sympathy of the JCA's staff and members along with the community at large, go out to the two surviving children of Garieno "Keil" Dixon, and Nadeen "Diane" Dixon, and other family members and friends of this Brampton family.



## CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY 2011



We were proud to once again host The Annual Children Christmas Party, an annual JCA production for many, many years. The event brought members, families and friends together to spend the afternoon at the JCA celebrating with the children. We are very thankful to our many donors and sponsors who continue to show their support: Beryl Nugent, Yvonne Crooks, Ralph's Bakery & Take Out, Sun-Light Bakery, Chris's No Frills in Etobicoke, Tin Nel's Patties, Costco Wholesale, Michidean Patties, Food Fiesta, Maple Lodge Farms, Caribbean Jerk Chicken Drum and Western Union.





## YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Celebrate good times...

There is a party going on at the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) so bring your good times and your laughter too, we have memories, joy and love to share. Let us celebrate good times.

Let me put that message out there to my readers to recognize the momentous year for JCA celebrating 50 years through difficult and joyous times, and my hope is that you the readers will join and promote the JCA, tell a friend bring a friend, in everything they do this year and beyond.

As history was related to the 'tod' that I am, close to 50 years ago, couple months to go, a group of Jamaican immigrants decided to commemorate with a 'celebration', there is that word again, the independence of Jamaica from British rule with a party in 'rented', note this word too, space of a downtown hotel. Since that moment the group recognized something collectively great so they form the Jamaican Canadian Association.

Throughout the years that follow this group went from a 'celebration' to advocating and supporting the greater community.

Now this recollection might seem like stale news to some readers however, for me, the 'tod', and also the writer ( a fi mi story), it resound pride, joy and motivation; an immigrant group collectively pulling together and weathering the societal storms, celebrating and supporting their community. Take and share this article and the 'In Focus' as a re-enforcement when you speak to non-JCA members about this great organization in your own 'join us' and 'promote us' campaign. LOL! ...get with the lingo, we are in a new era.

We have come a long way to 2012. In this year so far I have witness for myself, JCA trumpeting who they are and will continue to be, a celebratory backbone in

the community...the roots run deep and strong. The organization kick started the year with New Years Eve 'celebration', that word, wringing in the new, January 1st. They then gave reverence and praise in a church ceremony on January 15 that too was a celebration. The pastoral message "help one, help all" analogize by a story of ants working to build their colony (community); collectively they combine their strength to carry a slice of bread that would not necessary be possible individually. I witnessed JCA and the community coming together to celebrate the lives of a "fallen soldier and his family- the Dixons" (get with the lingo) and give support to their family.

During this edition's month of February, JCA at their annual Boonoonoonos celebrated the achievement of Jamaican immigrant Justice Aston Hall who got promoted to the Ontario Court of Justice. JCA also took you down memory lane to connect with the rich history with their After Work Edu-tainment (AWE). To celebrate much more, JCA will have their Black HistoryMonth celebration; local schools (our community) will come together and recognize and celebrate the contributions of Blacks. All this and much more in their own, opposite to 'rented' building...OMG! (Keep up get with the lingo).

LOL! There is so much joyous thing to tell and share about the JCA however this writing can not tell all so collectively like ants we can tell and share it all. Get your funk, your step and your swagger (get with it) the celebration will last a lifetime.

Dwaine Osbourne  
Youth Committee Chair

L-R Dr. Sylvanus Thompson (VP), Marcia Brown and Dwaine Osbourne (Youth Chair)



## JAMAICA 50 CELEBRATIONS IN TORONTO

As 2012 and the golden anniversary of our independence rapidly approaches, we want to wish you a warm Jamaican welcome. Fifty years after Jamaica gained its independence, this accomplishment still remains one of the proudest moments in our history.

We feel it is important to liberate, educate, elevate, and celebrate this history; to take pride in our heritage, arts and culture and in our Jamaican roots. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to illuminate our achievements and to share them with all our fellow Canadians. We are excited to invite everyone and indeed the world, to join us in commemorating Jamaica's 50th anniversary of independence.

There is a wide array of activities planned in many countries across the world for 2012. Here in Canada, all will showcase the brilliant achievements of the countless Canadian Jamaicans who have contributed duly to the building of our Nation. And there are numerous opportunities for all Canadians to become involved, to partner with us, in this exciting experience.

If you are interested in supporting, volunteering or simply becoming involved in our Jump4JA! celebrations, please contact us by telephone or email and let us know. Our coordinates are included at the bottom of this Newsletter. Let's come together to see how you too can get involved.

Jump4JA! is an exciting Calendar of Events and installations showcasing Jamaican ingenuity – from the arts to academia to athletics. Jump4JA! boasts the best of the best, Jamaican-born personalities as well as friends of Jamaica, renowned experts and artistes – from Canadian communities and around the world.

Whether you have roots in Jamaica, frequently visit, or simply love the beautifully diverse culture that is Jamaica, we are proud to welcome you to celebrate this momentous occasion with us.

We invite all Canadians and the world, to experience our Jump4JA! Events and to partner with us to celebrate in the warm, vibrant, one-love spirit that is Jamaica.

"We can't wait to Jump, for Jamaica!"

[www.jamaica50.ca](http://www.jamaica50.ca)

[www.facebook.com/Jamaica50](http://www.facebook.com/Jamaica50)

In Service,

Pamela Appelt and Joe Halstead  
Co-Chairs, Jamaica50 Steering Committee





## THE HISTORY OF JCA

The Jamaican-Canadian Association was founded in 1962 by a group of Jamaicans then living in Toronto. The impetus for the creation of the association was the emergence of Jamaica from colonial status to becoming an independent nation in August, 1962. Jamaicans in Toronto formed a committee comprised of the following: Roy G. Williams, Bromley Armstrong, E. S. Ricketts, Miss Phyllis Whyte, Mrs. Catherine Williams, George King, Leyton Ellis and Kenneth Simpson to plan and execute a celebration of the momentous occasion. This committee enabled the disparate group of university students, nurses, domestic workers and scattered others (representing the demographics at that time) to come together as a unit to participate in a collective public activity as Jamaicans in Toronto for the very first.

The celebration of Jamaica's Independence took the form of a Dinner Dance which was held at the King Edward Sheraton Hotel on King Street East in Toronto on August 6, 1962. It was a grand occasion. Jamaicans came out in their finest attire. Representatives from each level of government attended and brought greetings and congratulatory messages. A sumptuous meal was served and enjoyed by all. Toasts were proposed to each level of government with appropriate responses. The high point of the night came when the new black, gold and green Jamaican flag was unfurled for the first time as the assembled group haltingly sang the national anthem, also for the first time. After that they danced the night away. A good time was had by all as the assembled group on that occasion truly embraced the national motto "Out of Many One People."

Jamaicans were exhilarated by this event. They felt proud and patriotic. They had made many new social contacts. They had come together as an entity bound by patriotism and a shared heritage. They had bonded. There was a strong sentiment that this new-found euphoria should not be allowed to dissipate. There was a strong desire to create a permanent entity to institutionalize and replicate the experience into the future.

### THE JCA IS BORN

A six-person Constitution Committee chaired by Bromley Armstrong and consisting of the following: Miss Mavis Magnus, George King, Miss Amy Nelson, Mrs. Violet Carter and Roy Williams were commissioned to draft a constitution to be presented at a proposed Organi-

zational Meeting. After much intensive work and debates the Draft Constitution (Appendix) was hammered out and ready by the middle of September, 1962.

Notice of the Organizational Meeting was widely circulated among the participants in the Independence Day Celebration and others. On September 23, 1962 the Organizational Meeting, chaired by Roy G. Williams, convened at the YMCA, 40 College (now the site of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Headquarters). A large number of Jamaicans and Canadians attended. By a motion they unanimously approved the Draft which now became the first constitution of the JCA. They then proceeded to elect the First Executive Committee consisting of the following: Roy G. Williams, Bromley Armstrong, George King, Ira Dundas, Miss Mavis Magnus, J. B. Campbell, Owen Tennyson, Phyllis Whyte, Mrs. Violet Carter and E. S. Ricketts. The Jamaican-Canadian Association was now formed with a Constitution, an Executive Committee and a body of members who had signed on or was in the process of doing so.

Immediately following the Organizational Meeting the Executive Committee met and selected its first officers and committee chairpersons as follows: President, Roy G. Williams; Vice President, Bromley Armstrong; Executive Secretary, George King; Treasurer, Ira Dundas; Recording and Correspondence Secretary, Miss Mavis Magnus. Bromley Armstrong was appointed Chair of the General Purposes Committee. J. B. Campbell became Chair of the Education and Scholarship Committee and Owen Tennyson became Chair of the Publicity and Social Committee.

The JCA was off and running. It started out as a patriotic and social organization but very soon of necessity it added an advocacy role and then later, again due to necessity, it added social and community services in order to address the varied needs of a rapidly expanding diverse population (comprised of Jamaican, Caribbean, African and other nationalities). The association has had to adapt over the years to the changing needs of its various communities. It has grown in size, presence and influence. It has struggled to acquire a permanent home base over the years as it acquired premises at 65 Dawes Road (lost by fire), and 1621 Dupont Street (subsequently sold). Now it proudly occupies and provides services from its Cultural Center at 995 Arrow Road in Toronto.

## THE PAST PRESIDENTS OF JCA

- 1) Roy Williams- 1962-1966 and 1984-1989. He's said to be the second longest serving in regards to total time spent as Jamaican Canadian Association president. He still attends regularly.
- 2) Mel Thompson- 1966-1971, 1972-1975, 1980-1981. He's said to be the longest serving in regards to total time spent as president.
- 3) Bromley Armstrong- 1971-1972. Best known as making his mark as an activist and being an inspiration to the African-Canadian community by standing up for basic rights. He also had a major role in JCA's early development.
- 4) Canute Cato- 1975-1978. He spends a lot of time in Jamaica and attends JCA occasionally.
- 5) Vincent Doyley- 1978. Now deceased.
- 6) Vincent Conville- 1978-1979. He's still a very active JCA member.
- 7) Kamala Jean Gopie- 1979-1980. She's the first female JCA president. She's also the first and only JCA president to not be of African heritage. She's a lifetime member.
- 8) Rupert James- 1981-1984.
- 9) Nehemiah Bailey- 1989-1992. He's currently on a number of JCA committees. He also is involved at Jamaican Diaspora-Canada Foundation.
- 10) Karl Fuller- 1992-1996.
- 11) Herman Stewart- May 1996- May 2001, 2008-2009. He's still a very active JCA member who participates in several committees. He also had a major role in the establishment of JCA's current address.
- 12) Valarie Steele- May 2001-June 2004. She's currently the interim chairperson at Jamaican Diaspora-Canada Foundation.
- 13) David Griffiths- 2004.
- 14) Sandra Carnegie Douglas- 2005-2008
- 15) Audrey Campbell- 2008 to current





## DID YOU KNOW...

JCA is the solely responsible for the Consul General Office being in Toronto?

JCA started the Flag Raising ceremony at Nathan Philips Square?

JCA is a United Way donator?

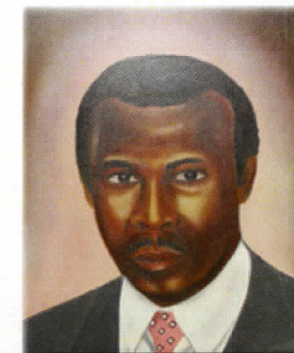
## IN A NUTSHELL – JAMAICA

### JAMAICA – Fast Facts

- 1494: - Christopher Columbus arrived in Jamaica on May 4 1494, however the Spanish formed settlements in 1509.
- 1655: – On May 10 1655, Great Britain took control of Jamaica from the Spanish.
- 1692: Devastating earthquake at Port Royal
- 1831: Christmas Revolution
- 1834: Emancipation proclamation was read on August 1, 1834
- 1947: Autonomy from Britain was granted in 1947
- 1958: Jamaica became a key member of the British-sponsored West Indies Federation
- 1962: Jamaica gained Independence from the British on August 6, 1962.



Roy G. Williams  
1962-1966/1984-1989



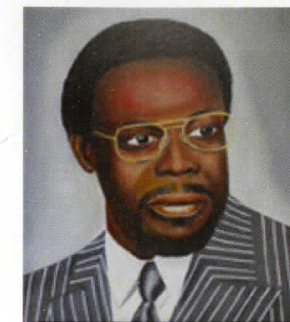
Mel w. Thompson  
1966-71/1972-75/1980-81



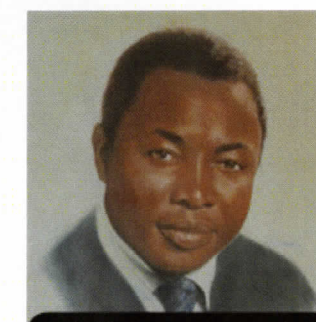
Bromley Armstrong  
1971-1972



Canute Cato  
1975-1978



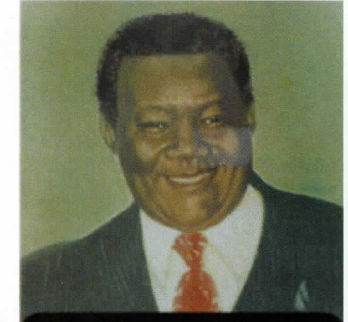
Vincent Doyley  
1978 - 1978



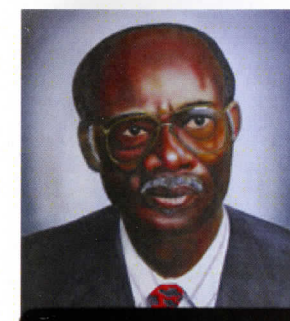
Vincent G. Conville  
1978 - 1979



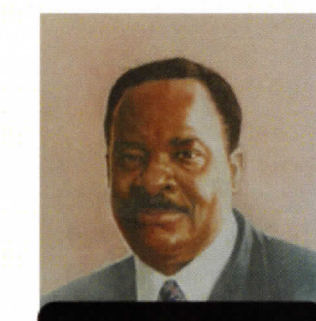
Kamala-Jean Gopie  
1979-80



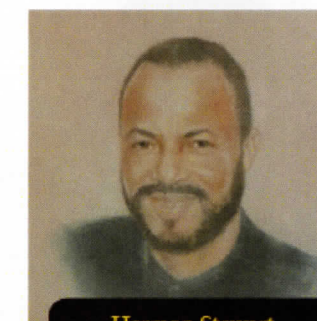
Rupert James  
1981-84



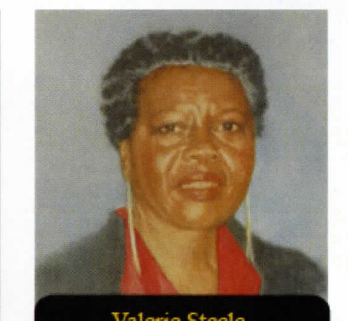
Miah Bailey  
1989-92



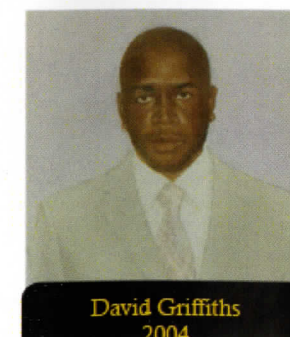
Karl R. Fuller  
1992 - 96



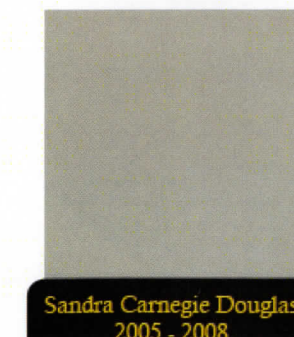
Herman Stewart  
1996-2001



Valerie Steele  
May 2001-June 2004



David Griffiths  
2004



Sandra Carnegie Douglas  
2005 - 2008

## OUR PAST PRESIDENTS



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